

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 NEA-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
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R 200706Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7884
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USINT HAVANA
USICA WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 5 OMITTED)

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE - HELSINKI FOR CAT DELEGATION

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG OAU XA
SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT: INAUGURAL SPEECHES MIRROR CONCERNS OF
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

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REF: KHARTOUM 3254 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: 15TH OAU SUMMIT OPENED ON SCHEDULE EVENING JULY 18 IN
ORDERLY SESSION FREE OF ANY RESIDUAL ACRIMONY FROM COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS (COM) (WHICH HAS STILL NOT HAD CLOSING SESSION).
SUDANESE PRESIDENT JAAFAR NIEIRI AND FIVE OTHER SPEAKERS
FOLLOWED TRADITIONAL OAU FORMAT FOR OPENING CEREMONIES.

SPEECHES REFLECTED THEMES RAISED DURING COM, ESPECIALLY QUESTIONS OF MILITARY INTERVENTION AND ADHERENCE TO NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES. PRAISE FOR EFFORTS BY ALL PARTIES ON NAMIBIA QUESTION, INCLUDING WESTERN CONTACT GROUP, WAS IMPRESSED BY NEARLY ALL SPEAKERS. END SUMMARY

1. AS INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF OAU FOR COMING YEAR AND HOST OF 15TH ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (AHG OR SUMMIT), PRES. NIMEIRI DELIVERED LENGTHY WELCOMING DISCOURSE THAT TOUCHED ON MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING OAU. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY DAIS BY LIBERIAN PRES. WILLIAM TOLBERT (SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF ANGLOPHONE OAU MEMBERS), NIGER PRES. SEYNI KOUNTCHE (ON BEHALF OF FRANCOPHONES), PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER ROBERT MUGABE (ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS), UN SEC GEN KURT WALDHEIM (AS HONORARY GUEST, AS IN PAST) AND OUTGOING OAU CHAIRMAN, BAGYESE PRES, OF BONGO. EACH SPEAKER SPOKE ON THEMES RAISED BY NIMEIRI.

2. AFRICAN SUCCESSES OVER PAST YEAR: NIMEIRI AND BONGO CITED MONROVIA AGREEMENT BETWEEN LIBERIA, GUINEA AND SENEGAL. THEY ALSO MENTIONED PROGRESS IN CHAD/LIBYA MEDIATION, AS DID WALDHEIM AND TOLBERT, IN THIO/SUDAN MEDIATION AND EFFORTS IN NAMIBIA.

3. NAMIBIA: NIMEIRI, WALDHEIM, TOLBERT AND BONGO PRAISED ALL EFFORTS TOWARD RESOLVING NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE QUESTION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WALDHEIM SAID "DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED" AND COMMENDED OAU AND FRONTLINE STATES ESPECIALLY BUT ALSO EXTENDED APPRECIATION TO FIVE WESTERN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. WALDHEIM ASSERTED HE HAS MADE NECESSARY CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR UN PRESENCE FOR PEACEKEEPING AND FOR TRANSITION PERIOD. TOLBERT ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP. HOWEVER, EVERY AFRICAN SPEAKER STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT WALVIS BAY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA.

4. ZIMBABWE: SEPAKERS, EXCEPT WALDHEIM, WERE ALSO UNEQUIVOCAL IN SUPPORT OF PATRIOTIC FRONG, BUT ALONG LINES OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM) CALL FOR ALL PARTIES CONFRENCE WHILE WAGING ARMED STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON INTERNAL PARTIS. WALDHEIM SAID "VARIOUS INTIATIVES TAKEN BY GRONTLINE STATES, AS WELL AS BY UNITED KINGOM IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH U.S. HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL." HOWEVER, PF CO-LEADER MUGABE SOUNDLY ATTACKED U.K. FOR ITS POLICY OF DELAY AND FOR "NOT BEING SERIOUS" ABOUT ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE IN ZIMBABWE. MUGABE REPORTEDLY DID NOT ATTACK U.S. EFFORTS OR POLICIES.

5. SOUTH AFRICA: CONDEMNED AS PARIAS BY ALL SPEAKERS.

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ACDA-12 /121 W

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R 200706Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7885

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6. MIDDLE EAST: TOLBERT EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN PRES. SADAT'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. NIMEIRI REPEATED SUDANESE POLICY TOWARD MID-EAST AND PALESTINIAN CAUSE, CALLING FOR FULL OAU SUPPORT. MUGABE ATTEMPTED TO LINK SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBERATION EFFORTS WITH PALESTINIAN CAUSE BY ALLEGING ISRAELIS WERE PROVIDING UZI MACHINE GUNS TO IAN SMITH AND CO. AS WELL AS TRAINING FOR HIS FORCES.

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7. NON-ALIGNMENT: NIMEIRI SEIZED HIGH GROUND IN SUGGESTING POLICY OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT WAS SAFEGUARD AGAINST ESCALATION OF MILITARY INTERVENTION ON CONTINENT. HE SAID AFRICA SHOULD KEEP AWAY FROM DANGERS OF ALIGNMENT AND AIM AT CONSOLIDATION OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM). BONGO AND TOLBERT ECHOED NIMEIRI'S CONCERNS AND SEEMED TO AGREE WITH HIS SOLUTION.

8. MILITARY INTERVENTION: AS WITH COM, SPEAKERS DEVOTED GREAT ATTENTION TO QUESTION OF MILITARY INTERVENTION ON CONTINENT. NIMEIRI CLAIMED "BIG POWERS HAVE MADE OUR CONTINENT A BATTLE GROUND AND OUR PEOPLE CANNOT FODDER. I FEAR OUR CONTINENT WILL GO SAME PATH ASIA HAS TAKEN FOR 20 YEARS OF WAR AND DESTRUCTION." SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF OAU, NIMEIRI FURTHER ASSERTED "EACH INVITATION FOR INTERVENTION IS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER FOR COUNTER-INTERVENTION. FLOW OF ARMIES, SOME RECOGNIZABLE FROM PAST, SOME WITH FACES WE KNOW AND SOME WITH NEW ONES, ARE COMPETING ONCE AGAIN FOR CONTINENT IN EVER-WIDENING CYCLES (SIC) OF INTERVENTION." ONLY SOLUTION, HE CLAIMED, IS TO REJECT AND RESIST FOREIGN INTERVENTION FORCED ON OUR CONTINENT AND TO STRENGTHEN OUA DEFENSE AND MEDIATION COMMISSIONS. (FULL TEXT OF RELEVANT SECTION OF NIMEIRI SPEECH TO FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL). TOLBERT, WALDHEIM, KOUNTCHE AND BONGO WERE SUPPORTIVE OF NIMEIRI'S VIEWS.

9. ECONOMIC RELATIONS: ONLY NIMEIRI AND KOUNTCHE MENTIONED SERIOUSLY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING CONTINENT; NIMEIRI PROBABLY MORE AS OAU SPOKESMAN THAN DUSANESE PRESIDENT AND KOUNTCHE BECAUSE OF DIFFICULT CONDITIONS IN SAHEL. NIMEIRI SAID OAU FOUND NO COOPERATION IN UNCTAD, IN DEVELOPMENT DECADE, AT UN SPECIAL SESSION OR IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. FAIRER TERMS OF EXCHANGE HAD NOT BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECTED NOR MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH ACHIEVED. NIMEIRI SAID OAU WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO 5TH UNCTAD IN MANILA (MAY 1979) AND GROUP OF 77 PREPARATORY MEETING IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA IN FEBRUARY 1979. HE ALSO MENTIONED N.I.E.O. IN GENERAL TERMS.

10. COMMENT: OPENING SPEECHES WERE MODERATE AND GENEARALLY WELL-RECEIVED BY OTHER HEADS OF STATE. IMPORTANT THEME WHICH KEPT RECURRING THROUGHOUT SPEECHES WAS MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND OAU/AFRICAN STRATEGY NECESSARY TO COUNTER IT. WHILE NOT SPECIFYING WHICH FOREIGN FORCES WERE BEING REFERRED TO IN SPEECHES, IT WAS CLEAR CUBAN, FRENCH AND SOVIET TROOPS WERE MEANT FROM CONTEXT OF REMARKS. IT

IS CERTAIN AHG WILL HOTLY DEBATE THIS ISSUE, AS COM DID,
BUT IT PROBABLY WILL NOT PASS STRONG RESOLUTION TO DEAL
EFFECTIVELY WITH PROBLEM.
BERGUS

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Message Attributes

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